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9 July 1965

**NRO & USAF REVIEW COMPLETED****MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: Micrology vis-a-vis the NRO**

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OSI historical  
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1. This will be the third year that I have participated in budget submissions to the NRO (FY 64, 65, and 66). While I claim no unique vantage point from which I have observed these years and although the comments that follow are well-known to many people, it might serve some useful purpose to record them for posterity.

2. In the FY 63 budget submission, generally speaking, this Agency's participation in the NRO was not curtailed significantly. At that time the NRO Staff was, relatively speaking, small and did not have the people necessary to delve into our budget submission in any great detail. As a result, the only area that was critiqued to any great extent was P&W, particularly the R&D contract. With these few exceptions our budget submission was accepted almost as presented.

3. During FY 64 the NRO Staff continued to build and with our submission for FY 65 they branched out into other areas. As a result, the budget justification process became much more lengthy and detailed. In keeping with the changing times and the general direction of the NRO during FY 65, all research and development money requested by the Agency was withheld with the exception of Camera R&D in the IDEALIST budget. In addition, the NRO reviewed in detail and, I must admit not without some justification, the Lockheed-OXCART contracts. The IDEALIST budget was left almost intact [redacted]

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4. We are now involved in the machinations associated with the FY 66 budget; and as symptomatic of the growing paralysis of the Agency's budget, the NRO has now taken dead aim on the IDEALIST Program in addition to the OXCART [redacted] Programs.

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**TOP SECRET**

Thus assuming that we have forfeited our "right" to launch major R&D programs without their stamp of approval, they have now omitted the last vestige of our R&D efforts. This was accomplished by requiring detailed justification for our IDEALIST Camera R&D money and Product Improvement funding requested in the FY 66 IDEALIST budget. [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] This of course parallels with their  
25X1 increase in staff personnel within the NRO, specifically [REDACTED]  
25X1 [REDACTED] office.

5. At this point I should like to digress briefly and at least point out for the record that these people who are now questioning so vigorously our research and development efforts represent the same organizations who have for the past 10 years been opposed, either actively or passively, to most of the programs that are presently an integral and important part of the NRP. To enumerate some of the more significant contributions of this Agency I submit the following:

a. U-2 - Lockheed presented this to the Air Force prior to contacting the Agency, and the Air Force turned it down as inappropriate for their mission.

b. SAMOS/CORONA - It will be recalled that the original "spy in the sky" (SAMOS) was effectively "blown" by the Air Force, and with that the President requested that the Agency take over control of the Program and develop it as quietly and efficiently as possible, hence the CORONA Program.

c. OX CART - The OXCART Program was reluctantly agreed to by the Air Force who again, at that time, could not and did not attempt to justify it as having a significant role within the Air Force.

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j. Delta II - After about six months delay and objection by the D/NRO, the DCI directed that we proceed with the development of the Delta Series Camera.

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6. Several obvious conclusions may be drawn from the preceding paragraphs. First, that since the inception of the NRP, no major R&D collection programs have been undertaken by this Agency nor, for that matter, by any other member of the NRO. Second, that it is quite obvious from what we can gather our FY 66 budget will be that all funds requested by the Agency for research and development or product improvement will have to be extensively justified. This, of course, will in effect make it impossible for the Agency to initiate any R&D or product improvement programs that the NRO and its "Staff" do not approve of.

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7. In summary, this "Staff" (now called NRO) represents the same stumbling block that we have always before managed to avoid

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- 3 -

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

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in order to accomplish the Agency's directed mission. The question that naturally arises from the second conclusion is, what "act of enlightenment" has suddenly endowed the Pentagon with exclusive rights on technical knowledge? Conversely, when was the Agency "stripped" of its talent rendering it incapable of making a sound and reasoned technical judgement. I realize the rhetorical nature of this question in view of that "Magna Carta" of intelligence documents, the NRO Agreement.

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Programs Staff, OSA

- 4 -

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TOP SECRET